

25X1A2g

CLASSIFICATION

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bolivia

DATE DISTR. 3 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Illegal Immigration Ring Headed by Gustav
Bodansky

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A6a

Document No.

25X1A2g

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g

REPORT NO.

Auth: DDA REG. 71178

Further investigation of Gustav Bodansky's illegal immigration activities reveals the following details of his manner of operation.

1. Bodansky, in his correspondence directed to German and Austrian Jewish refugees, signed his letters as Director de la Sociedad de Proteccion de los Inmigrantes Israelitas. In each case, he would inform the interested individuals that he had an efficient and discreet way of getting people from Europe to Bolivia as well as to other South American countries. He requested an advance payment of one hundred dollars from each applicant, which was to be deposited with another person in Bolivia.
2. Correspondence between Bodansky and Leopoldo Koffler indicates that the latter was the person to whom these refugees sent their deposits. Koffler is the owner of a small electrical, radio, and phonograph shop in La Paz. He was previously reported to have bought an enormous amount of American dollars each month for deposit in his account with the Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, under the account of Westminster Company. He also has an account in the National City Bank of New York City. The source of Koffler's income was not known and his business did not warrant the exchange of so much currency. He transacted only a small amount of business and importations by him were also on a limited scale since divisas for exchange were difficult to obtain.
3. Some of the letters between Koffler and Bodansky reveal that the latter had complete use of Koffler's account with the National City Bank of New York. Letters between Bodansky and his son contain definite mention of relations with Koffler.
4. Two of Bodansky's principal agents in the Immigration Office were Guillermo Galindo and Ernesto Rodas Pantoja, who received 2500 bolivianos for each case. These two agents were managed exclusively by Federico Hesse, who was Bodansky's middleman in the La Paz Area. It is believed that other agents in the Immigration and Police offices were handled by Galindo and Rodas. Immigration, visa, and police records were forwarded to Hesse by Galindo or Rodas for transmission by hand to Bodansky in Cochabamba. In several instances it has been noted that Bodansky made out the original papers and submitted them to either Rodas or Galindo for their inspection and proofing as well as for the necessary stamps and immigration numbers.

CLASSIFICATION

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002200130005-2

[illegible]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

-2-

From a comparison of handwriting and notations on some of these forms, it is believed that Galindo made most of the corrections and that he was in charge of getting proper immigration numbers, stamps and signatures affixed to these papers.

5. It is thought that the following additional individuals have aided Bodansky in his work:
- a. Heinz "Harry" Schwarzbach, suspected smuggler between Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina, who was in an excellent position to help Bodansky, since he makes frequent trips to the last two countries in the interests of his jewelry business;
 - b. Kurt Neumann, German businessman in Cochabamba;
 - c. Lt. Johnnie Ibanez R., member of the La Paz Carabinero force, believed to have been one of Bodansky's contacts in the police force;
 - d. Luis J. Arduz D., a La Paz lawyer who signed several forms as a witness for interested refugees coming into Bolivia;
 - e. Edmundo Gabor, member of the Cochabamba Police;
 - f. Manuel Rojo Moreno, member of the Cochabamba Police;
 - g. Walter Salmon, at present in Buenos Aires, who aided refugees to enter Bolivia from Europe via Argentina; and Vladimir Hechäner, to whom Bodansky referred as a friend who would "cooperate in these affairs".
6. It has been discovered that Bodansky was on intimate terms with Zdenko Schey, who requested information of Bodansky on his plan for getting people out of Europe into Bolivia. Schey questioned Bodansky by letter as to exactly how secure and efficient his method was. Schey was reported in [REDACTED] as a Communist sympathizer who was allegedly aiding Communist suspects to enter Bolivia.
7. Bodansky also was in possession of a copy of an immigration form used by the Brazilian Office of Immigration, and one used by the Colombian Government. He apparently used these forms in his work for refugees desiring to go to Brazil or Colombia.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~